

FY2017-FY2018 Board of Selectmen Goals

Adopted: August 16, 2016

1. Maximize the use of Town assets and ensure that Town and School services are housed in buildings that provide suitable and effective environments.

Continuing Strategies

- Participate in the decision making process leading to the resolution of the Minuteman School question.
- Evaluate targeted options for property acquisition.
- Work with School Committee, Finance Committee, and PPBC to develop options for High School space needs, to include a financing plan.
- Work with the School Committee and Finance Committee to evaluate the implementation of full-day kindergarten
- Work with the School Committee to determine the best methodology for projecting enrollment trends.
- Evaluate the concept of creating a community campus at Ridge Hill/Nike.
- Conduct a DPW Feasibility Study.
- Work with the Park & Recreation Commission to facilitate approval of the Rosemary Recreation Complex.
- Work with the School Committee and PPBC in the design and construction of the Hillside School.

New Initiatives

- Develop a financing plan for the first projects in the Eight Building Plan.
- Conduct a Memorial Park Building & Grounds Feasibility Study.
- Conduct a Fire Station #2 and Police/Fire Station Study.

2. Ensure appropriate Regulation and Assessment of, and Investment in Infrastructure

Continuing Strategies

- Improve the Needham Center streetscape and infrastructure.
- Complete the preferred renovation of Highland Avenue from Webster Street to the Charles River (State highway).
- Monitor implications of the add-a-lane project and assure that Needham's interests are addressed in the final design.
- Develop a consensus with Newton regarding transportation options along the Highland Avenue/Needham Street corridor.
- Ensure appropriate coordination of all the major road projects affecting the Town.

New Initiatives

- Develop a plan for NPDES Compliance.
- Update Water and Sewer Regulations.

- Evaluate the benefits of participating in MassDOT Complete Streets Program.
- Review Street Opening Permit driveway fees.
- Evaluate parking restrictions near driveways.
- Review public access to private ways.
- Work with the Planning Board to consider a street naming policy.

3. Maintain and improve the vitality and economic success of the Town.

Continuing Strategies

- Consider a plan for snow removal in the business districts.
- Ensure support for redevelopment opportunities in Needham Crossing, including retail and restaurant uses.
- Work with local businesses affected by road work, bridge closures, and the like to mitigate negative impact.

New Initiatives

- Re-evaluate the Food Truck Policy.
- Review the need for changes to the Industrial District Zoning.
- Review options for streamlining the permitting process.
- Work with Newton to implement the economic development plan for the N² corridor.

4. Expand energy efficient and environmentally sound operations for the Town and its residents and businesses.

New Initiatives

- Explore the option of limiting the use of plastic bags at certain retail establishments.
- Evaluate options for expanding recycling programs (e.g. organics/food waste).

5. Maintain and develop amenities that contribute to the desirability of Needham as a place to live and work.

Continuing Strategies

- Evaluate the impact of broadening the historical demolition delay By-law.
- Work with the Planning Board on zoning provisions relating to residential construction.
- Consider the merits of a tree removal by-law.
- Create a housing priority plan
- Coordinate with DCR to encourage access to Cutler Park.
- Establish fishing areas at ponds and on the Charles River.
- Expand the hours of operation of the Senior Center.
- Evaluate the concept of constructing a hockey rink in a public/private partnership.

- Coordinate and monitor the development of permitted housing units.
- Evaluate the possibility of implementing a Quiet Zone in Needham.

New Initiatives

- Develop a pilot program to address trash concerns Town-wide.
- Determine next steps for the Rail Trail project.
- Revisit the Noise By-law relative to weekend and Sunday work.
- Explore opportunities to install community art.
- Review and develop a plan for addressing barriers to healthy aging.
- Review policies, regulations and resources to address the challenge of underage drinking.
- Evaluate regulations relating to private trash pick-up on public ways.
- Recommend changes to the zoning by-law relative to the number of basements.
- Participate in the development of the Open Space plan.
- Help to ensure greater access to and awareness of the Town's trail network.

6. Maintain and enhance the Town's Financial Sustainability

Continuing Strategies

- Evaluate alternatives to the Town's Group Health Insurance program.

New Initiatives

- Conduct a Capital Facility Summit.

7. Evaluate Town Operations and Administration.

Continuing Strategies

- Update and post Board of Selectmen and Personnel policies.
- Develop a policy to promote the rotation of appointed board chairs.
- Update the Town's Emergency Management Plan.
- Evaluate the staffing needs of the Police and Fire Departments in the context of the current and planned growth in Needham Crossing.

New Initiatives

- Explore opportunities for departmental consolidation and efficiency improvement.
- Discuss executive session timing.
- Evaluate the need for the mailing of the Annual Town Election postcard.
- Reconsider the order of Town Meeting Warrant Articles.
- Conduct an IT audit and begin to develop a technology strategic plan.
- Ensure compliance with new Public Records Law.
- Develop and implement a policy guiding the use of banners on poles in the business districts.
- Consider a lawn sign policy for public purposes.